THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Three pesticides which have been mentioned in the 'Business Standard of 27th April, 1990 are DDT, BHC and Malathion. The use of DDT in agricultural sector has been banned and the use of BHC restricted to certain crops in agriculture. However, there is no proposal at present to ban the use of malathion.

(b) and (c) Government has identified 17 pesticides for review by an Expert Committee as these are reported to be restricted/banned in certain countries. The names of these pesticides are—2, 4-D, Aldicarb, Carbaryl, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Endosulfan, Lindane, Methyl, Parathion, Nitrofen, Paraquat, Nicotine Sulphate, P.C.P., Phorate, P.M.A., Tetradiforn, Zinc Phosphide and Aluminium Phosphide. The decision for banning/restricting the use of these pesticides in the country could be taken only after the recommendations of the Committee are received by the Government.

(d) The representation of VHAI is under examination.

Collection of up-to-date Information of pesticides poisoning, etc.

1769. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thacker Committee 1964 on pesticides had recommended in appendix 2 and appendix 3 (table 8 and 9) for collection of information, State-wise and year-wise, on incidents of human pesticides poisoning as also state-wise datas on suicides and homicides and whether this information has been updated, if, the details thereof, and if not, whether this would be collected and brought out in public interest;

(b) what were the other recommendations of the above Committee and action taken thereon;

(c) whether Appendix 4 (table 10) contains incidents of pesticide toxity to domestic animals and if so, the details of updated information;

(d) whether information on Toxity to fish (table 11) has been updated and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar information in Table 12 for beneficial insects and wildlife have also been updated and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether ICMR or any other Central body is collecting details of the pesticides poisoning and if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drug addiction amongst students in Lucknow, U.P.

1770. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Drug addiction is becoming more serious as per survey conducted amongst students in Lucknow as published in the National Herald of 10th March, 1990;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to overcome this serious problem; and

(c) whether a National Task Force, with representatives from Voluntary groups is likely to be set up for developing a cohesive plan and a programme for meeting this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) National Herald of 10th March, 1990 published a news item about a limited survey in some schools and colleges of Lucknow. In the absence of a comprehensive survey, it is not possible to assess the exact dimension of the problem. However, the study do indicate the seriousness of the problem, and highlights the need for providing appropriate services to help the drug addicts. A counselling centre for providing guidance and services to drug addicts has been set up through Abhiney Repartory Theatre and Research Institute, a voluntary organisation of Lucknow.

(c) Comprehensive strategy for combating drug abuse has already been evolved. Assistance is being provided to voluntary organisations, for awareness building and for providing service in counselling de-addiction, after-care and rehabilitation. There is no proposal to set up a National Task Force. However, the views of the voluntary organisations based on their actual experiences are obtained on a regular basis through meetings, workshops, seminars etc.

Research work on NEEM

1771. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2203 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1990 and state:

(a) the names of the institutions where Research on Neem has been conducted in the country indicating the year of start and results obtained alongwith expenditure incurred at each of these instiutions;

(b) whether any evaluation has been done so far and if so, the results thereof and conclusions arrived at by the Evaluation Committees;

(c) whether there is any element of accountability in our R&D laboratories and if so, the details thereof and whether Government are satisfied with the progress made so far; and

(d) whether Government would direct Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. to develop/promote, manufacture and marketing of Neem and other insecticidal products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Sir The major institutions where research on neem is being conducted are

(i) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, since 1962;
(ii) National Chemical Laboratory, Pune since 1985;
(iii) Regional Research Laboratry, Hyderabad since 1985;
(iv) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore since 1985;
(v) Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry since 1978; and
(vi) Osmania University, Hyderabad since 1986.

The research on neem is being undertaken as an integral part of the research programmes of these institutions and, as such, no separate allocations have been made